
Ecology's Solid Waste Program rolls out new web page

In late March 2002, Ecology's Solid Waste Program rolled out a new version of their website. The site sports a new navigational approach based on answering a user's potential question. Also, there is still a linear approach to finding topics available by clicking on the "list of topics." Adding the new navigation method allows users to find what they want from *more* than one place. The page replaces the current home page seamlessly (no need to update any bookmarks or worry about broken links) and can be viewed at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa>.

Office paper reduction

With our telecommunications advances, many predicted the transition to a "paperless office." The sobering truth is that we are consuming more paper than ever before.

Why reduce paper?

Paper produced from wood (and even recycled paper to a lesser degree) requires the consumption of resources such as energy, water, and new fiber (primarily from trees) and produces harmful emissions in the process. Even with effective recycling programs, a fair amount of paper still ends up in the garbage and is then sent to the landfill.

To find out more about the environmental impacts on forests each year (almost half of all trees cut now become paper), visit the "Paper Calculator." It calculates the U.S. average energy and wood consumption and environmental releases summed across the full "life cycle." For a given paper grade, it allows the user to compare the environmental impacts of papers made with different levels of post-consumer recycled content, ranging from 0 percent (i.e., original-source paper) to 100 percent. <http://www.ofee.gov/recycled/cal-index.htm>

A complete overview of the environmental benefits and how to choose an environmentally preferable paper are discussed in an article on paper by Chris Lotspeich of the Rocky Mountain Institute, <http://www.rmi.org/sitepages/art7037.php>.

See What can you do? on page 5.

Check out the new litter web site!

During the week of April 22nd, Ecology rolled out its "Litter and It Will Hurt" prevention campaign. On this web site you will find information about litter laws, various litter cleanup programs, cleanup statistics, links to litter-related publications, and information about the "Litter and it Will Hurt" prevention campaign. We hope you will find something to inspire you to help us reach Washington's zero litter goal!

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/litter>

Recycling is working in the U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a new publication entitled, Recycling Is Working in the United States. This fact sheet contains the key findings of the U.S. Recycling Economic Information (REI) Study.

The study shows the important environmental and economic impacts of recycling. It reinforces the well-established environmental benefits of recycling and reuse, such as cutting pollution, conserving natural resources, saving energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Recycling also offers widespread benefits to the U.S. economy, supporting more than 56,000 recycling and reuse businesses that gross over \$236 billion in annual revenues and employ over 1.1 million people with an annual payroll of nearly \$37 billion.

Paper copies of fact sheet EPA530-F-02-005 may be ordered from the:

- RCRA Call Center 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 1-800-553-7672
- National Service Center for Environmental Publications at <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom>.

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Agriculture Department bans use of herbicide clopyralid for lawns and turf

The state Department of Agriculture has banned the use of the herbicide clopyralid on lawns. The purpose of the ban, which took effect March 1, is to keep the long-lasting herbicide from potentially contaminating compost. The ban is initially in effect for 120 days. At the end of the four months, the department plans to make the ban permanent and will consider additional restrictions on the use of the herbicide.



"This ban is meant to keep clippings from grass that has been treated with clopyralid from being sent to municipal and commercial compost facilities," said Cliff Weed, manager of the Pesticide Compliance Program for the Department of Agriculture. "We focused on grass clippings because they are the major source of contaminated materials."

Clopyralid kills broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, clover and thistles and has been registered for use in this state since the late 1980s. Evidence has been growing that when clopyralid-tainted compost is used to enrich soils, it can harm certain flowers, such as asters and sunflowers. Damage also has been found with vegetables, such as beans, peas and tomatoes.

The new restrictions make products containing clopyralid "state restricted use" pesticides when labeled for use on lawns and turf, including golf courses. This means they can be sold only by licensed dealers and bought only by licensed pesticide applicators. Pesticide dealers and applicators licensed by the Department of Agriculture are being notified of the new restrictions.

Clopyralid products will still be able to be used on golf courses if no grass clippings, leaves or other vegetation are removed from the site and sent to composting facilities that provide product to the public.

"These restrictions are our first step in resolving compost contamination issues," Weed said. "We'll continue to work on the issue with our stakeholders and advisory committee." For the past four months, Weed has led an advisory committee involving the agricultural community, composters and government regulators.

Information on clopyralid in compost is available on the Department of Agriculture's Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/clopyralid.htm>.

2002 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Practices

The 2002 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Practices is now accepting applications. **The applications are due on Friday, June 7th, this year.**



Any Washington business, association, government agency, nonprofit group, or school is eligible, as long as it is in good standing with environmental regulations.

Facilities that engage in any of the following pollution prevention and sustainable business practices are encouraged to apply:

- Toxics reduction (reducing or eliminating the use of toxic materials; reducing or eliminating persistent, bio-accumulative toxins such as mercury or PCBs).
- Waste reduction (reducing or eliminating generation of solid or hazardous waste at the source, reducing or eliminating emissions to air or water at the source).
- Resource conservation (increasing the use of renewable and recycled materials, reducing energy use or using renewable energy sources, reducing water use).
- Product stewardship (providing take-back programs, minimizing the environmental impact of a product throughout its life cycle, providing products or services which have a positive benefit to society and the environment).

Please forward this article and share this web address with any organizations or facilities that may be good candidates for this recognition.

The application form can be found on the Internet at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability>. For hardcopies or more information, please contact Anch Bergeson, Department of Ecology, (360) 407-6609 or email: aber461@ecy.wa.gov.

Links of Interest

The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network home page is located at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/>.

Tools of Change

Free registration allows companies, organizations, and governments to use this site as a personalized workbook for planning programs that motivate people to take actions and adopt habits that promote health and/or are more environmentally friendly.

<http://www.toolsofchange.com/English/firstsplit.asp>

Sustainable housing partnership breaks ground

By Jim Wavada, Ecology Sustainable Building Specialist

Ecology Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program (SWFAP) Manager Cullen Stephenson, SWFAP Eastern Regional Manager Mike Hibbler, and Ecology Regional Director Tony Grover helped Spokane welcome its first sustainably designed, low-income, multifamily housing project on a rainy day on the Spokane River.

John Roskelley, chairman of the Board of Spokane County Commissioners, served as master of ceremonies for a celebration of the groundbreaking (launching) of the Sustainable Housing Innovation Partnership (SHIP) Riverwalk Point low-income apartment community.

He was joined by Spokane Mayor John Powers, City Councilman Steve Corker, and Third District Representative Jeff Gombowski in singing the praises of this first-ever attempt to apply sustainable building principles to a low-income housing project in Eastern Washington.

Jim Wavada, who served as one of the project's sustainability consultants and is sustainable building specialist in Ecology's Eastern Regional Office (ERO), addressed the nature of sustainable design features incorporated in the project. These features include solar orientation and commitment to preserve native vegetation, a state-of-the-art low-demand ventilation system, ground source heating, low-VOC paints and floor coverings, and many other features.



Doug Allen, SEA Program, and Jani Gilbert, ERO's PIO, entertained the crowd gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking for the Riverwalk Point I sustainable, low-income housing effort.



Spokane Mayor John Powers gives the ready sign for the first heat of Bobcat races that were the feature event of the Riverwalk Point I sustainable low-income housing community's groundbreaking festivities.

Project developer representative Julie Dhatt-Honekamp of Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs noted that the project committed to a 10-percent maximum premium for sustainability features and the building documents come in at 8.7 percent. Construction is scheduled to begin as soon as the SEPA review process is completed. They hope to have units available in December of this year.

ERO staffers Doug Allen of the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program and public information officer Jani Gilbert

provided music for the pre-event. Jani also helped with the media coverage, which turned out to be extensive. Dave George and Mary Gaddy of the Toxics Cleanup Program provided traffic control. Brenda Pozega, SWFAP, and Johnnie Harris, Central Files, drove courtesy vans to satellite parking for the groundbreaking event.

For more information about this project, call or e-mail Jim Wavada, (509) 456-6349 or jwav461@ecy.wa.gov, or visit the project Web site at <http://ship.snapwa.org>. (NOTE: no www.)



Spokane County Commissioner John Roskelley, left, and Riverwalk Point General Contractor Chris Kopczynski (friends and fellow mountain climbers since high school) share some driving tips before mounting their respective Bobcat front-loaders for the Bobcat race

Stakeholders agree on a financing approach for management of used electronics

Representatives from electronics manufacturers, government agencies, environmental groups, and others have achieved a major milestone in the development of a joint nationwide plan for managing used electronics. In their fourth meeting on March 11-12 in Washington, D.C., all stakeholders in the National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative (NEPSI) agreed to work toward the establishment of a financing system that will include the costs of managing used electronic products in the overall purchase price of new electronic products.

The agreement commits the stakeholders to work on the development of a "front-end financed system" during the remaining work of the NEPSI Dialogue and to develop an agreed action plan for establishing this system that includes federal legislation needed to facilitate the implementation of the system. The action plan will also include steps that can be taken during the period before the "front-end" system is in place nationally that will improve existing systems for managing used electronics and prepare for the new financing system.

The NEPSI participants identified several challenging issues remaining to be resolved, including the timeframe for implementing the front-end financed system; how to make the system convenient for consumers; whether it can provide incentives for product design; and how the costs and responsibilities for collection, reuse, and recycling will be shared among producers, retailers, consumers, and governments.

For additional information contact any of the following NEPSI Core Group members:

INDUSTRY

Heather Bowman, Electronic Industries Alliance
(703) 907-7582

GOVERNMENT

Scott Cassel, Product Stewardship Institute
(978) 934-4855

Maureen Hickman, Minnesota Office of Env. Assistance
(651) 215-0271

Sego Jackson, Snohomish County, Washington
(425) 388-6490

Clare Lindsay, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(703) 308-7266

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ted Smith, Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition
(408) 287-6707

Electronic equipment and product stewardship in the northwest

Paige Sorensen, Ecology Sustainability Specialist

Many citizens are looking to their local government agencies to offer electronics recycling collection programs. Once begun, these government sponsored collection programs can draw out a lot of old products kept in storage, some of which are quite expensive to recycle.

The Northwest Product Stewardship Council has developed guidelines for local governments to consider if they are thinking about collecting electronics for recycling. These guidelines focus on short-term solutions that will encourage long-term Product Stewardship programs involving electronics manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, and consumers.

For more information see: *Considerations for Local Communities, Related to the Collection of Used Electronics*, <http://www.productstewardship.net/productsElectronics.html>

Calendar of Events

June 7, 2002, Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Practices Award Applications due.

July 31, 2002, President's Environmental Youth Awards Program Application Deadline for FY 2002 Awards.

August 27 to 30, 2002, The National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance Annual Conference will be held in downtown Seattle, WA. Contact Kathy Brooks at (202) 550-0587 or email brooks@arrowchase.com. Information on the conference will be posted on the NPSA's Web site as it is available: www.npsalliance.org.

From waste to worth

A regular column by Jay Shepard, Program Sustainability Strategist

Some is good, more is better, but less is best!

It's been said that the only thing a person truly needs is air to breathe. While this can be debated extensively, it could also lead one to contemplate the necessity of everything else that we have in our lives. We seem to be living on the opposite extreme. Here are some interesting facts about Americans as consumers:

- Americans spent \$715 billion for food in 1997, and away-from-home meals and snacks captured 45 percent of the U.S. food dollar, up from 39 percent in 1980 and 34 percent in 1970. <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~neubertj/food.html>
- The United States is the world's largest single energy market. It represents more than 25 percent of world consumption of oil, natural gas, coal and nuclear energy. http://www.bp.com/centres/energy/us_stat_rev/index.asp

The average hourly wage in Washington State is something more than \$17 per hour. Assuming that you work full time, that is about \$36,000 per year.

Now, think a bit about how that money is spent.

Transportation

Assume that you have an SUV and travel the average of 14,000 miles per year at 15 miles per gallon. Taking an average cost of \$1.35 per gallon, you would spend \$1,260 that year. If you make the average hourly wage, you spent about 74 hours per year working to pay for that gas. If you add in average costs for maintenance, ownership, and insurance, the total cost of a motor vehicle is about \$6,360 per year. Or 374 hours spent working per year to own and operate a motor vehicle. That's over 4 percent of your annual life, or 18 percent of the time you spend at work.

Housing

Let's make an assumption that with energy, water, sewer, garbage service, and housing payment or rent, you spend about \$1,000 per month or \$12,000 per year. It costs you 706 work hours, 34 percent of your work hours, or 8 percent of your life this year.

Other Expenditures

Let's assume a conservative budget of \$75 per month, or \$900 per year, for clothing. Remember your work clothes, recreation clothes, etc. It all adds up. Vacations and recreation vary widely person to person, but let's say \$1,800 per year on that. The average American's yearly food bill comes to about \$2,400.

The Result

If you're the average working consumer in Washington, you spend 1,376 hours of the year to get all the above.

That's 66 percent of your work hours, or 15 percent of one year of your life.

You do the math, based on your own income and activities. Take a look at the check book and the credit card bill. Post expenditures in groups like transportation, food, housing, recreation. Assuming there are 5,840 waking hours in a year, you can decide how you want to spend your time. How does the spreadsheet look? Are you getting what you expected from your investment, from your life?

Money is ultimately your time. Your choice. Less--of what money can buy-- might well be best.

What can you do?

Use the following hierarchy and rethink how and when you use paper!

1. Prevent – Avoid using paper entirely.
2. Reduce – Use the least amount possible.
3. Reuse – Get multiple uses out of each sheet.
4. Recycle – After each sheet has been fully used.

Some specific ideas include:

- Edit work directly on the computer.
- Use the blank side of a sheet printed on one side, to print drafts or take notes.
- Use both sides of the paper before recycling it.
- Make all photocopies double-sided.
- Do not print out e-mail unless absolutely necessary.
- Do not print out long documents from the web if you don't need to.
- Use services that help keep you off mailing lists to help reduce junk mail and cut costs. You can contact the Direct Marketing Association and ask to be removed from mailing lists. (Mail Preference Service, c/o DMA, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale NY 11735. The Center for a New American Dream offers a similar service at www.newdream.org/junkmail)

Three simple Microsoft Word formatting tweaks to help you save paper:

- Word's default margin settings are an inch at the top and bottom and 1.25 inches on the sides. Change them all to 0.9 of an inch. You've just increased the printable area on your page, and your document will become about 10 percent shorter.
- The default font size is 12 point. You can change it 11.5 point to shrink your document about 5 percent.
- The line spacing is single spacing by default. If you change it to 0.95, you gain an extra line every 20 lines, and make your document 5 percent shorter.

Read this newsletter online!

The Closed-Loop Scoop newsletter should not create waste. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via e-mail please send a message to jbil461@ecy.wa.gov with the subject line reading "Subscribe Closed-Loop Scoop." To make changes to our mailing list, please contact Jim Bill at 360-407-6125.

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